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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Masami TAMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1764

Serial No.: 09/647,930

Examiner: Virginia Manoharan

Filed: March 21, 2001

Atty. Docket No.: 107183-00003

For: DISTILLATION APPARATUS AND DISTILLATION METHOD

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.121**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 6, 2004

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action dated January 6, 2004, please  
amend the application as follows.